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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The majority of the people earn their living by working at the TKZS (Trudovo Kooperativno Zemedelsko Stopanstvo; Cooperative Farm). Others work at a gypsum quarry.

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2. there were shortages of cheese (sirene and kashkaval) and sugar in particular. Such foodstuffs were available in some localities, but were rarely brought On the occasions when sugar was brought to the village, it was distributed fairly. For example, if a few hundred kilograms of sugar were received, about 50 kilograms would be set aside for those under medical care, and the remainder would be divided equally among the villagers. sugar is in short supply everywhere, except perhaps in Sofia.

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3. There was no housing shortage in village, although the situation is "tight" in the cities and towns, where any landlord with an extra room is obliged to take in a tenant. 50X1-HUM

4. the weaving of cloth and making of clothes is no longer done in the home because the TKZS does not furnish the villagers with the necessary wool and cotton. Instead, wearing apparel is purchased from State stores, such as Narmag, or at the Narkoop or village cooperative stores. Prices are very high. 50X1-HUM

5. queues in front of shops in towns and cities, usually of housewives waiting for sugar or kislo mlyako (yogurt). 50X1-HUM

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6. The price reduction of 7 May 1953 was not at all popular. Prior to that date, many of the basic necessities were sold according to two different price scales. One scale was low and applied to sales against ration coupons. The other scale was high and applied to sales free of ration coupons. At the time of the price reduction the rationing system was abolished and all sales on the low price scale ceased. Thereafter, everyone was forced to pay the prices of the high scale, which although reduced by the price reduction decree, were still very much higher than the prices which most of them had been paying previously, when they could satisfy a major part of their requirements by purchases against ration coupons. Furthermore, the currency reform which accompanied the price reductions practically wiped out any savings held by the people, including those of many Communists, and was widely talked about as sheer robbery.

7. At present the Militia and Army officers are comparatively well off as they receive high salaries as well as free uniforms and other benefits. Former merchants are about the worst off, closely followed by farmers, factory workers, and minor government officials. Among the workers, the miners receive the highest wages.

8. Foreign goods, such as light machinery, spare parts, bicycles, motorcycles, Chinese silk, and porcelain are on sale in Bulgaria. The manufactured goods are made in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and the Soviet Union. The Czechoslovakian manufactures are of higher quality than the Soviet. A shortage of razor blades exists, although some Czech blades can be purchased.

9. At present no one is in a position to save money. However, a five percent deduction is made from the salary or wages of a government employee or a member of a cooperative for deposit in the State Savings Bank (Dŭrzhavna Uspestovan Kasa). These deposits must be left untouched for 20 years, after which withdrawals can be made.

10. Everyone has so much difficulty in supporting himself and in carrying out his own responsibilities that he is unable to help others dispossessed by the Communist government.

11. Agencies engaging in retail trade are the following:

a. Narmag, or National Store;

b. Kolstok, the enterprise which buys and sells groceries;

c. Stroymatmetiz, the enterprise which deals in construction materials;

d. Vedomstven Magazin, the agency which provides municipality and cooperative enterprises with supplies for their own use;

e. Toplivo, the agency dealing in fuels, e.g., coal and wood;

f. D.S.P. Pechatni Proizvedeniya, the book-selling agency;

g. D.S.P. Obleklo i Obufki, the clothing and shoe retail sales enterprise;

h. Narkoop, a national cooperative which sells a variety of consumer goods at retail; and

i. Selkoop, a cooperative which sells a variety of goods to village cooperatives.

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12. All cooperative establishments are attached to the Regional Cooperative Union (Rayonen Kooperativen Sŭyuz), which in turn is subordinate to the Central Cooperative Union (Tsentralen Kooperativen Sŭyuz). At present the municipalities do not operate their own commercial establshments. The Khoremag, for example, has been taken away from the municipalities and the managment has been turned over to the national government. The Ministry of Internal Trade supervises the policies of all State and cooperative commercial enterprises. None of these enterprises may sell on credit, and this places a heavy burden on the consumers. Consumers such as the TKZS or the village cooperatives must borrow heavily from the national bank because of their lack of sufficient working capital.

13. There are still weekly markets where fruits, vegetables, and eggs are sold by the TKZS and by private farmers.

14. Of the 55 villages in [redacted] okoliya, all have at least one telephone, 10 have a village water system, and about 45 have electricity.

15. The most general complaint is about the lack of money and the high price of clothing. 50X1-HUM

16. [redacted] the black market has virtually disappeared [redacted] 50X1-HUM

17. The typical housewife spends eight hours a day working in an office or factory and does her housework before and after working hours. 50X1-HUM

18. [redacted]

19. Most of the villagers make their purchases at the village cooperative rather than in the nearest town as they formerly did. They no longer have their own carts and horses and do not have the money to pay for any public transportation if such exists. The government usually favors the town and city rather than the village in such matters as the distribution of consumer goods.

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20. Forced to work in order to help support their families, housewives lose close contact with their children, who spend the day in government nursery schools and find their mothers tired and yet still busy with household chores when they are all at home together in the evening. This produces a constant strain on family life.

21. It is virtually impossible for the ordinary working man to support his wife and any children on his earnings alone.

22. Any family valuables which may be sold to supplement the family's earnings are usually purchased by high Communist officials.

23. [redacted]

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